

REMARKS

The following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated April 15, 2004. In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Supports of the Claim Amendments

Claims 3-11 are under consideration in this application. The amendments (as underlined below) to claims 3 and 10 in the response filed on January 28, 2004, were supported by the specification as follows.

The hybridization device of the invention, as now recited in claim 3 (Fig. 1; Embodiment 1), comprises: a tray 4 provided with a hollow 11 for placing a slide glass 10 having at least one biopolymer fixed thereon; a sheet 6 for fixedly placing a cover glass 8 onto an inner bottom (shown in Fig. 1B) of the tray 4 in the hollow 11 (*"a silicone sheet 6 is placed in a hollow 11 of the tray 4 as shown in Figure 1B (cross-sectional view of Figure 1A). A cover glass 8 is placed on the sheet 6 in accordance with the guideline 7 marked on the sheet 6."* p. 4, lines 18-29; Fig. 1), said cover glass 8 being to be covered with the slide glass 10 from above with a sample biopolymer solution 9 sandwiched therebetween (*"a sample solution 9 is dropped on the cover glass 8, on which a probe-DNA-fixed slide glass 10 is placed with the probe DNA facing down"* p. 4, lines 21-22); a case 1 for accommodating the tray therein; and a cap for sealing the tray 4 within the case 1 (Fig. 1A).

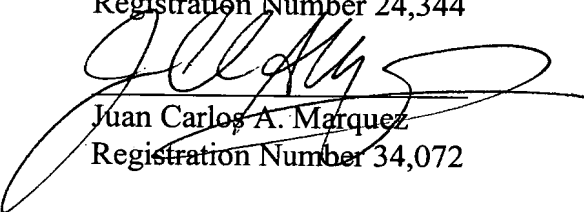
The invention, as now recited in claim 10 (Fig. 2; Embodiment 2), is also directed to a hybridization device having a tray 13 having a hollow 11 for placing a slide glass 10 having at least one biopolymer (although the specification recites a sample/probe biopolymer, it is known to one skilled in the art that **at least one** biopolymer is involved) fixed thereon, the tray 13 having a convex 13a protruding (*"the convex 13a protrudes from the sheet/tray unit 13 into the hollow 11"* p. 7, line 12) from an inner bottom (inferred from Fig. 2B) of the tray 13 into the hollow 11, said convex 13a being fixedly placed with a cover glass 8 thereon (*"the cover glass 8 can easily and steadily be placed on a predetermined position of the convex 13a, i.e., the cover glass positioning groove 14"* p. 7, lines 2-4; Fig. 2B), said cover glass 8 being to be covered with the slide glass 10 from above with a sample biopolymer solution 9 sandwiched therebetween (*"to arrange the cover glass 8 and the slide glass 10 with the sample solution 9 therebetween"* p. 6,

lines 24-25); a case 1 for accommodating the tray 13 therein (Fig. 2A); and a cap for sealing the tray 13 within the case 1 (Fig. 2A).

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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